

From: Jane Waski
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 1:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

420 East 64 Street
New York, New York 10021

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

Let me begin by saying that I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of ordinary consumers. Companies like Microsoft don't become powerful because of competitors, but because of people like me who purchase and use their products. I am an avid user of Microsoft software, and feel that they have been unfairly singled out. Nevertheless, I also believe that the current settlement satisfies the government and public interest in a way that should allow this suit to end. I feel that the three-year lawsuit and the efforts of the negotiations have culminated in a settlement that is both fair and reasonable.

While new government regulations will be imposed on Microsoft's business and technology practices, this settlement will provide certainty about the new rules and thereby ensure that the company can continue delivering advanced American technology to the marketplace. I also believe that this case has had a direct impact on the federal and state economies. During this difficult time, it doesn't make sense to spend more money on a battle that has already been won.

Under the agreement, competitors can sue Microsoft if they feel that the company is not complying with the terms of the settlement, and Microsoft can continue innovating in an effort to maintain its competitive advantage. In short, I think that the necessary corrections have been made to solve the problems, and now it is time to return focus from litigation back to innovation. The settlement agreement is the first step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Jane Waski